

we are not proceeding with the debate on the stimulus package, with other matters, such as the railroad retirement legislation. It seems to me we have a perfect opportunity to do what we should be doing in this interregnum, and that is to consider all the President's nominees who are languishing. We have the time to debate these nominations and vote on them. Let's do it.

Case in point: The majority leader talks about bringing up the railroad retirement legislation. This is the European-style, Government-backed occupational pension scheme. I think we would do better to complete the filling of the President's Cabinet.

Mr. President, as you know, John Walters is the last Cabinet member awaiting confirmation.

He is awaiting Senate confirmation to serve as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, otherwise known as the national drug czar. When did his nomination come to us from the President of the United States? Way back in June, over 5 months ago. Finally, on October 10, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on John Walters. It lasted over 3 hours. It was very complete. Following the hearing, Mr. Walters answered over 100 written followup questions, including questions from Members who were not on the committee itself.

Finally, on November 8 the committee reported out John Walters by a vote of 14 to 5, but we understand that his nomination cannot be brought up for us to debate and then vote because there are holds being placed on his nomination by unnamed Democratic Senators.

I am calling upon the majority leader today to bring this nomination to the Senate. If there are objections to its consideration, let those who object stand up and voice their objection and explain to us why they object, even to the consideration of the nomination of an individual who, as I say, has been pending now for over 5 months and is the last person to complete the composition of the President's Cabinet.

There is another reason to try to conclude this matter, because the Office of Drug Control Policy is one of the central parts of our Government that deals with drug trafficking around the world. Drug trafficking is one of the ways in which terrorists who we are fighting finance their terrorist activities. For the life of me, I cannot see how someone would stand in the way of the confirmation of a person who is in line to help fight this way of funding terrorism around the world.

We are supposed to be pulling out all of the stops to fight terrorism. Apparently, it is all except for one thing, and that is their financing because we have some political problem with confirming the drug czar.

Let me give a couple of examples. Afghanistan grossed an estimated \$180

billion in the drug trade last year. The Taliban generates an estimated \$50 million in annual revenue from heroin trafficking. The Taliban, which of course has been harboring Osama bin Laden, has overseen the world's greatest growth in poppy plant cultivation as well as heroin production and trafficking.

According to the State Department, Afghanistan's poppy plant cultivation area has quadrupled since 1990. Just 2 weeks ago, the Wall Street Journal reported that an Italian Government official stated that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network is funded through trafficking.

The bottom line is, if we are really going to pull out all the stops in fighting terrorism, we have to cut off their financing, and that includes their drug trafficking. One of the best ways of doing that is ensuring the office we have set up to do that is headed by the President's nomination; namely, John Walters. Yet we cannot get this nomination before the Senate for confirmation.

John Walters has over 15 years of experience in drug prevention, beginning in the middle 1980s. He served with the Office of National Drug Control Policy for a total of 4 years in the 1989 to 1993 period. In his hearings, he made it very clear he would execute the policies of the President, which have been widely hailed as necessary for us not only to deal with the problems of drug use in the United States but to cut off the sources of drugs which, among other things, fund the terrorists. So I urge my colleagues, and I urge the majority leader, it is time to confirm John Walters as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Let us not delay this any longer. There apparently is no excuse in terms of time because the majority leader pointed out this morning we apparently have time to consider other matters. So let us finish the confirmation process for the President's Cabinet before we conclude our work in the first full year of the Bush administration. It seems to me that is only fair. It is good policy, and it would help us in fighting the war on drugs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CLINTON). The Senator from Arkansas.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator HELMS from North Carolina and Senator CLELAND from Georgia be added as cosponsors to S. 1278, the United States Independent Film and Television Production Incentive Act of 2001.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNITED STATES INDEPENDENT FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION INCENTIVE ACT OF 2001

Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, this is a bill I introduced awhile back.

It is a good way to reinvest in America, looking at our films that have gone offshore because of the incredible incentives that other nations are giving them. We want to keep our film industry in the United States. We want to keep the jobs in the United States, and that is why we introduced this bill in order to direct the incentives according to the jobs that are created. We are hoping we can move this bill along, and we are delighted to have two more cosponsors.

#### RAILROAD RETIREMENT REFORM

Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, I came to the Chamber after listening to several of my colleagues earlier this morning. The majority leader, Senator DASCHLE, was visiting with Senator DURBIN about some of the important legislation we could be considering in these last couple of weeks in the Senate that would really be good for the American people.

First they spoke about the railroad retirement reform package, which was mentioned by Senator KYL. I think it is absolutely essential we bring up this issue. Last week, when I was in Arkansas celebrating Thanksgiving, I was approached by an older woman who said: Why in the world has this not been done?

This legislation has passed the House twice by incredibly large margins. The last time it was 384 to 33. There are 75 Members of the Senate who are cosponsors of this issue. We have the railroad industry, the union members, the workers in agreement. It is absolutely practical and realistic that we should bring up this issue and move it forward because it is going to benefit everybody, and that is what our job is, to bring up legislation that everyone has worked on, that we have come to some agreement on, that we have the majority of individuals in both bodies excited about and willing to move forward.

So I applaud the majority leader for bringing up this issue. I think the time is right. I think the work has been done. The debate has been had. People have worked out this issue, and we should be moving forward. We should be productive for the American people and particularly for those in the railroad industry and those who are retired. I applaud the majority leader for his efforts, as well as the other Members of this body, and encourage him to move forward with it. This is something we can do and something we should do before we leave, and I hope we will.

#### FREEDOM TO FARM

Mrs. LINCOLN. One of the other issues that was brought up by my colleagues earlier was the issue of our agricultural policy in this country,